## REMARKS

Upon entry of the present response, claims 15-34 will not have been amended but will have been submitted for re-consideration by the Examiner. Thus, claims 15-34 are pending in the present application.

In view of the herein contained remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed action provided. In particular, Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for his detailed response to Applicant's arguments and will use the Examiner's response to the arguments to point out and emphasize the patentable features of the present invention and the distinctions between the present claims and the disclosure of the TOMAT and LEUNG et al. references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting each of the independent claims in the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15, 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over TOMAT (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,499) and LEUNG et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,963). The Examiner rejected claims 16-19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over TOMAT and LEUNG et al. in view of SHIMA (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0004802). The Examiner rejected claims 24 and 25 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over TOMAT and LEUNG et al. in view of TOMAT (U.S. Patent No. 6,784,925). Claims 20, 21 and 27-34 were rejected under the same rationale as claims 15-19 and 22-26.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the above-noted rejections and submits that they are inappropriate with respect to the combination of features recited in each of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, Applicant traverses the rejection, requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application, in due course.

Applicant's invention is directed to a terminal apparatus that is configured to receive image data from a scanner. The terminal apparatus comprises an interface configured to be connected to the scanner by a network. The terminal apparatus includes a memory configured to store information indicating a plurality of file types and an application program associated with each of the plurality of file types, each of the application program being configured to open a document file associated with at least one of the plurality of the file types.

The terminal apparatus further includes a controller that is configured to receive, from the scanner, a control file including a file name and to also receive from the scanner, a document file, the document file including image data scanned by the scanner. The controller is additionally configured to analyze the file name included in the received control file to obtain the file type of the received document file, and to search the memory, to determine the application program associated with the obtained file type, from the application programs stored in memory. The controller is additionally configured to start the application program associated with the obtained file type to open the received document file based on the application program determined in the search of the memory.

Independent claim 20 recites a network system including a scanner and a terminal apparatus as generally described above while independent claim 21 recites a generally related communication method.

In direct contrast, and as the Examiner admitted in the outstanding Official Action mailed on August 3, 2006, TOMAT does not disclose at least a controller that searches the memory to determine the application program associated with the obtained file type from the application programs stored in the memory and that starts the application program associated with the obtained file type to open the received document file based upon the application program determined in the search.

Thus, it is admitted that the features recited in Applicant's pending claims are not disclosed in or suggested by TOMAT cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, the pending claims are distinguished over TOMAT.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner relies on LEUNG et al. to overcome the deficiencies of TOMAT. LEUNG et al. relates to a method for handling a document in a computer system.

In particular, LEUNG et al. discloses intelligent document recognition and handling. In particular, in a computer system, a method for handling a document includes digitizing the document with a scanner to form a digitized image, determining a feature vector of the digitized image, comparing feature vectors of a plurality of previously stored images to the feature vector, returning a list of locations in the memory having at least one of the plurality of previously stored documents with a feature vector similar to the feature vector, and performing a task on the digitized image appropriate for documents in a selected location in the memory. Thus at the outset, it is apparent that what is contained in the memory of LEUNG et al. is locations of

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documents based upon feature vectors. Accordingly, the comparison of LEUNG et al. is of feature vectors associated with locations. This clearly does not comply with the recitations of Applicant's claims.

Further, in LEUNG et al., a user selects one of the suggested potential document types for the document (col.10, lines 19-25). In response to the user selection, a task performed by processor 8 is to automatically execute an application program associated with the document type. When a document is identified by the user as a "graphic", and the task associated with the document type "graphic" is to run a graphic program and open the document, the processor 8 will automatically run the graphics program and open the document as soon as the document is identified by the user as a "graphic" (col.10, lines 30-46). In other words, in LEUNG et al., when the user selects one of the suggested potential document types for the document, the processor 8 will automatically run the application program associated with the selected document type and open the document. This also does not comply with the claim recitations.

In particular, LEUNG et al. does not disclose at least a controller that analyzes the file name included in the received control file to obtain the file type of the received document file. Rather, in LEUNG et al., the user selects one of the suggested potential document types to run the application program associated with the selected document type and to open the document. It thus follows that LEUNG et al. does not disclose at least a controller that searches the memory to determine the application program associated with "the obtained file type" from the application programs stored in the memory and starts the application program associated with "the obtained file type" to open the received document file based upon the application program determined in the search, at least since LEUNG et al. discloses (at col. 10, lines 24-25) that "After user

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selection, processor 8 performs a task associated with the selected document type (step 110). Thus, no memory search, as recited, is performed.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner relied upon "inherency". In particular, the Examiner asserted that "it is inherent that the processor 8 searches the memory in order to find the related application program". Applicant respectfully submits that it is clearly not inherent that this is the way the LEUNG et al. processor must operate. It is quite conceivable that, associated with each document identification (e.g., "invoice" or "graphic") a related application program is provided. Accordingly, it is not necessary that there be a search of the memory for the related application program in LEUNG et al. Accordingly, the Examiner's reliance on inherency has been traversed and has been shown to be inappropriate.

Thus, the pending claims are distinguished over LEUNG et al.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's pending claims are not disclosed in or suggested by any proper combination of TOMAT and LEUNG et al. cited by the Examiner. Thus, the pending claims are also submitted to be patentable over the Examiner's proposed combination, since even the combination of TOMAT and LEUNG et al. does not disclose the combinations of features recited in Applicant's pending claims.

Moreover, in the Examiner's analysis and discussion of the TOMAT document, the Examiner asserts that the analyzing of the file name is disclosed at col. 14, lines 13-34. However, these portions of TOMAT relate to operations that are being performed at the receiving computer as explicitly set forth therein (i.e., "at the remote side, the image file is received "—col. 14, line13). However, the Examiner is combining the features performed at the receiving computer with features performed in LEUNG et al. at the

originating (i.e., transmitting) computer. For this additional reason, the Examiner's combination is illogical and would be unobvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Moreover, the Examiner has not set forth a proper motivation for combining TOMAT with LEUNG et al. TOMAT does not disclose at least a controller that searches the memory to determine the application program associated with the obtained file type from the application programs stored in the memory and that starts the application program associated with the obtained file type to open the received document file based upon the application program determined in the search. On the other hand, in LEUNG et al., the user needs to select one of the document type in order to run the application program associated with the selected document type and to open the document.

Further, the Examiner's asserted motivation does not relate to the proposed combination. Rather, it merely relates to a proposed advantage and feature of LEUNG et al. per se. There is no indication whatsoever that TOMAT is related to filing of documents "of a repeating nature". TOMAT, on the other hand, deals with scanning of a document and sending a corresponding image file to a remote recipient using a software autosend utility that accesses predetermined profiles of potential recipients. On the other hand, LEUNG et al. relates to electronic document management and handling rather than sending documents to a remote recipient based on the profile corresponding to the identity of the remote recipient. Although both of these references relate to document scanning, there is really very little else that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the features of these two documents in the manner proposed by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner's combination is submitted to be deficient for this additional reason.

Yet additionally, in setting forth the functions of the controller, which in Applicant's claims is part of the image data receiving terminal apparatus, the Examiner relies upon col. 8, lines 20-28, which is related to the remote "receiving" computer, col. 4, lines 6-10, which relate to the originating "transmitting" computer and col. 14, lines 13-34, which again relate to the "receiving" computer. On the other hand, LEUNG et al., which the Examiner attempts to rely on for teachings of analyzing the file name and searching the memory, all relate to the originating (i.e., transmitting) computer. Accordingly, there is no logic in the proposed combination of the Examiner where he picks and chooses not based on the teachings of the prior art disclosure, features from the transmitting and receiving computers and combines them in a fashion so as to attempt to render unpatentable Applicant's receiving terminal apparatus. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's combination is lacking in motivation and is thus unobvious.

Yet further, the Examiner has not set forth a proper motivation for the combination of these references. The portions of the Examiner's Official Action dealing with the obviousness of the combination merely set forth the ultimate conclusion, but is not supported by any evidence of motivation that flows from the disclosures of the documents themselves. As noted above, the Examiner's statement of motivation is not a motivation for the proposed combination but rather a feature of the LEUNG et al. reference alone, over some undefined prior art. The Examiner has set forth absolutely no motivation based on the prior art for why one would modify the features of TOMAT with the selected features of LEUNG et al. Quite the contrary, Applicant does set forth numerous reasons herein why such combination would not be obvious and is lacking in motivation.

In regard to the rejection of claims 16-19 and 22, Applicant does not dispute the conventionality of the Lpr/Lpd protocol per se nor of displaying image data on a display of a terminal in the form of a thumbnail, per se. However, the utilization of these various subsidiary features of Applicant's invention in the manner recited in Applicant's claims is not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious, regardless of whether these features themselves are disclosed by SHIMA.

Further, Applicant submits that dependent claims 24 and 25 are respectively dependent from allowable independent claim 15, which is allowable for at least the reasons discussed supra. Thus, these dependent claims are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed supra. Further, all dependent claims set forth a further combination of elements neither taught nor disclosed by any of the applied references.

Regarding the Examiner's assertions regarding claims 26, 30 and 34, Applicant submits that the Examiner is incorrect. In fact, the Examiner's position is explicitly contradicted by col. 10, lines 22-26.

For each of the above-noted reasons and certainly for all of the above-noted reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action are inappropriate and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability thereof, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.
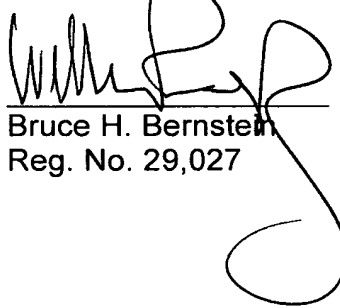
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## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has not amended the pending claims but has re-submitted the rejected claims for consideration by the Examiner. With respect to the pending claims, Applicant has discussed the disclosure and the references relied upon by the Examiner, and the features recited in the claims, and has pointed out the shortcomings of the references with respect thereto, as well as the lack of any proper motivation for the combination. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis for the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication to such effect in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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